

A.2.7 PLANETARY ASTRONOMY

1. Scope of Program

The Planetary Astronomy program supports ground-based telescopic observations that contribute to the understanding of the general properties and evolution of the Solar System planets and their satellites, and of asteroids and comets. The Planetary Astronomy program includes observations and analysis of data taken over entire range of wavelengths from the ultraviolet to radio. The thrust of the proposed research objectives must support NASA's planetary program objectives that either cannot be met by current spacecraft missions or that directly support specific current flight missions. Ground-based observations that supplement NASA missions that will be returning significant amounts of data within the next three years are especially encouraged. These Science Objectives are clearly defined in Table 3 found in the *Summary of Solicitation* for this NRA.

Note that to enable the NASA Office of Space Science to properly evaluate the relevance of proposals submitted to its programs, as well as track its progress towards achieving its goals as mandated by the Government Performance Review Act (GPRA), all research supported by NASA's programs must now demonstrate its relationship to NASA Goals and Research Focus Area's (RFA's) as stated in the latest version of its Strategic Plan (follow links from the Web site <http://spacescience.nasa.gov/>); see also the discussion in Section 1 of the *Summary of Solicitation* of this NRA. Therefore, all proposers to this program element are asked to state their perception of this relevance in terms of the Goals, Science Objectives, and RFA's given in Table 3 found in the *Summary of Solicitation*. In particular, this program element is designed to help fulfill any of the RFA's in all six Science Objectives in Goal II of the Solar System Exploration science theme. The appropriate place for this statement of relevancy is in the introduction to the proposal's "Scientific/Technical/Management" section (see Section 2.3.5 in the *Guidebook for Proposers*). The index numbers in this table may be used to identify a specific RFA, for example, "Goal I, Sun-Earth Connection Theme, RFA 1(c)" or "Goal II, Astronomical Search for Origins, RFA 3(b)."

2. Programmatic Considerations

Presently about \$7.2M is budgeted for this program, of which \$2.7M is dedicated to facilities support (principally the Infrared Telescope Facility (IRTF)). Approximately 80 investigations are supported with the remaining funds. Approximately one-third of these awards are expiring, allowing proposers to this ROSS-2003 NRA to compete for about \$1.5M.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- As discussed in the *Summary of Solicitation* of this NRA, the Office of Space Science (OSS) now uses a unified set of instructions for the preparation and

submission of proposals given in the document entitled *NASA Guidebook for Proposers Responding to NASA Research Announcement - 2003* (or *NASA Guidebook for Proposers* for short) that may be accessed by opening <http://research.hq.nasa.gov/> and linking through "Helpful References," or by direct access at <http://www.hq.nasa.gov/office/procurement/nraguidebook/> (note that the updated 2003-edition of the *Guidebook* is used for this solicitation).

- Section 6 of this NRA's *Summary of Solicitation* contains the Web address relevant to the electronic submission of a Notice of Intent (NOI) to propose and a proposal's *Cover Page/Proposal Summary/Budget Summary*, as well as the mailing address for the submission of the hard copies of a proposal.

Additional information about this program may be obtained from the Program Officer:

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